

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 120

By Sargent

A RESOLUTION to designate May 2009 as "Lupus Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, each year, the Lupus Foundation of America designates May as National Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the 1.5 million Americans who have lupus, a chronic disease that causes the immune system to attack the body's healthy tissues and organs; and

WHEREAS, thousands of people are diagnosed with the disease every year, ninety percent of whom are women; and

WHEREAS, every half hour, another person is diagnosed with lupus; and

WHEREAS, lupus is more prevalent among African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asians; tragically, thousands of people die from lupus each year, because a cure remains elusive; and

WHEREAS, 30,000 Tennesseans are affected by lupus; and

WHEREAS, there have been no new treatments for the disease in the last 50 years, and treatments for lupus often come with life-threatening side-effects that can be worse than the disease itself; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate May 2009 as "Lupus Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage the citizens of Tennessee to educate themselves on the symptoms and impact of lupus, and to join with the Lupus Foundation of America, Mid-South Chapter and the Lupus Foundation of America, Memphis Area Chapter in

supporting programs of research, education, and community services, offering our deepest encouragement to those who suffer from the disease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.